



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Northeastern Area
State & Private
Forestry

180 Canfield Street
Morgantown, WV 26505-3101

File Code: 3400
Date: November 20, 2003

John Englert, Facilities Manager
National Plant Materials Center, Building 509 BARC EAST
Beltsville, MD 20705

Dear John:

On September 30, 2003, Forest Service personnel conducted a gypsy moth egg mass survey at the National Plant Materials Center (NPMC). The purpose of this survey was to evaluate the efficacy of the suppression project conducted this past Spring and to assess the potential for defoliation and the need for treatment in 2004.

The location of the survey plots are shown in Figure 1. In brief, no new egg masses were detected at any of the 3 plots. No defoliation was detected at NPMC during the aerial detection survey conducted on June 16 (see report dated July 15).

It was not expected that a suppression project using the biological insecticide Gypchek would provide 100 percent foliage protection and a 100 percent gypsy moth population reduction. Based on results of previous suppression projects using Gypchek, foliage protection was expected on approximately 75 percent of the treatment area along with a gypsy moth population reduction in the 50-75 percent range. It is very likely that the results of this year's suppression project was aided by a natural decline of the gypsy moth in the area.

Since no noticeable defoliation is expected, treatment is not recommended in 2004 at NPMC.

Also for your information, no egg masses were found at the other adjacent federal sites.

Please call me at (304) 285-1555 if you have any questions regarding the egg mass survey or this letter.

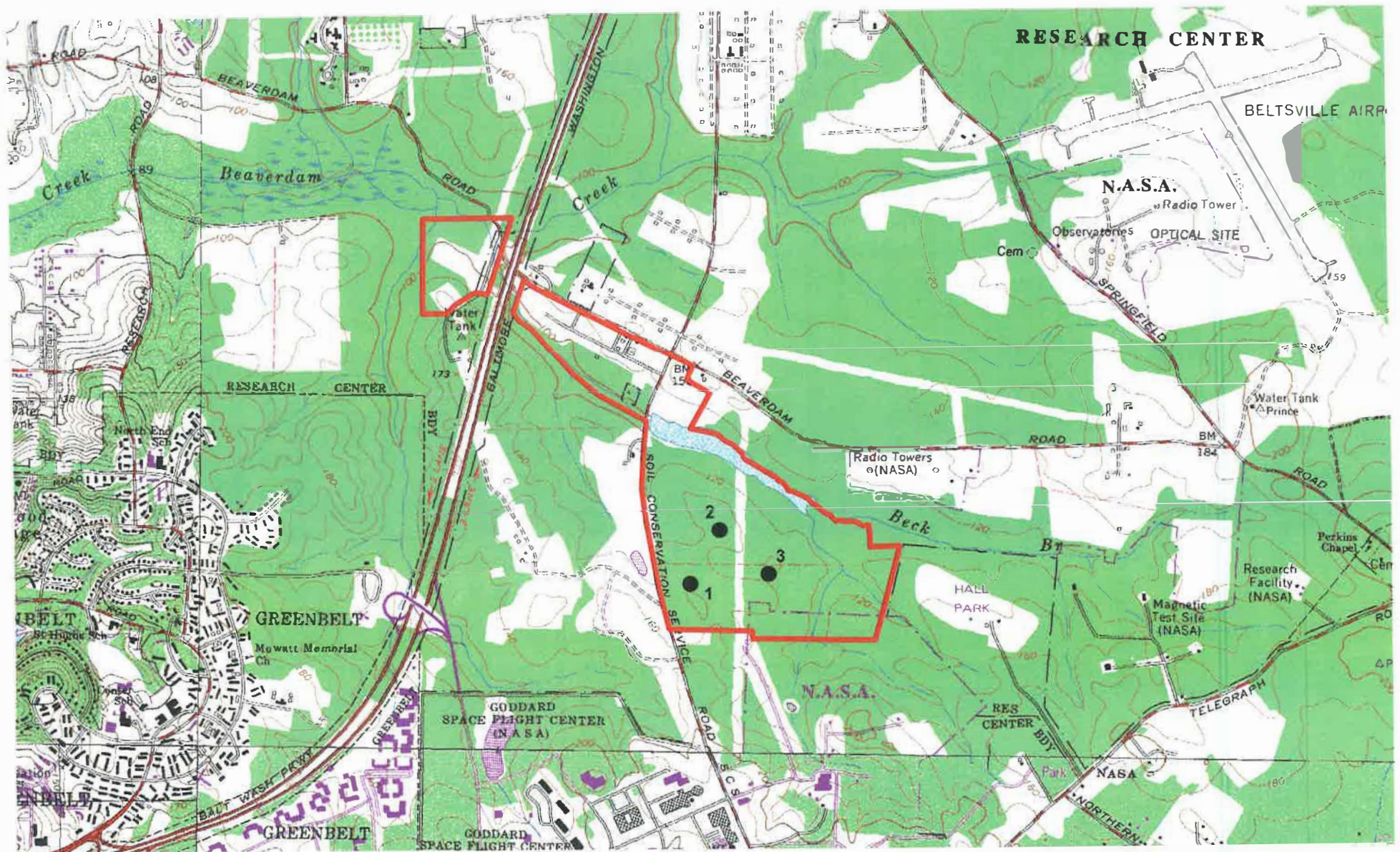
Sincerely,

RODNEY L. WHITEMAN
Forester
Forest Health Protection

Cc: Robert Tichenor, MDA
Sally Hughes, MDA
Noel Schneeberger, AO
Dennis Souto, DPO
Mike Connor, SPFO



Figure 1.--Gypsy moth egg mass survey plot locations at the National Plant Materials Center, September 2003.



0.5 0 0.5 Miles



Plot locations

● 0 egg masses per acre

~ Approximate NPMC property boundary